

WBK
FR96e
1845

With regard to my own
ESSAY

297
298

ON
HOMEOPATHIA,

Thomas J.
WITH A GLANCE AT

ALLOPATHIA,

BY

J. H. A. F E H R , M. D.

Member of several Homœopathic Societies.

Audiatur et altera pars.

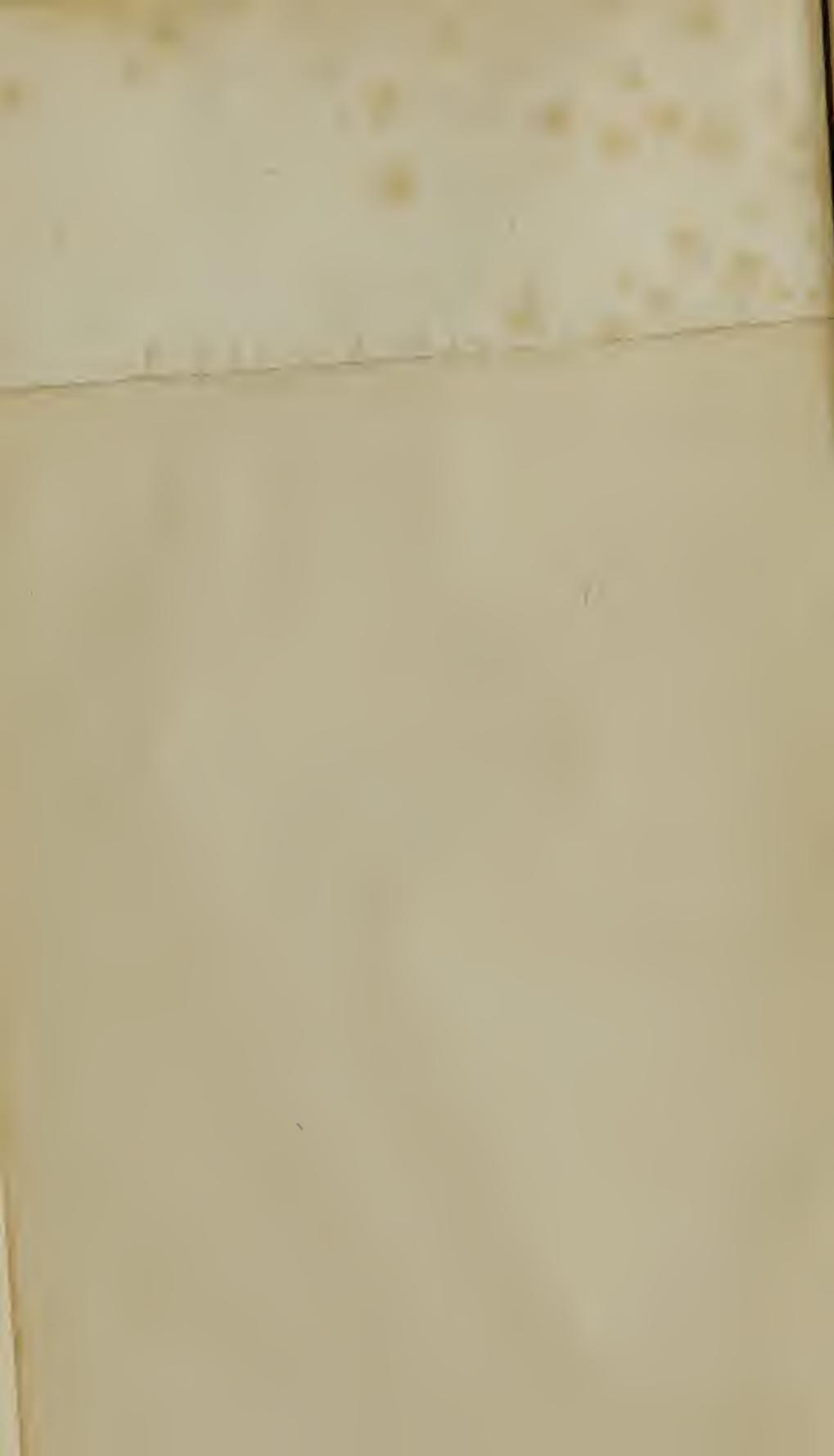
LEXINGTON:
INQUIRER OFFICE PRINT.
1845.

WEB
F 296
1845

ESSAY

ON
HOMEOPATHIA,

HOMEOPATHIA,



PREFACE.

Dr. LAWSON, Professor of Pathological Anatomy and Physiology in the Transylvania College, Lexington, Ky., in his Introductory Lecture, delivered on the 11th of November, 1844, at the Medical Hall, giving an historical sketch of the Medical Science, expressed himself, in relation to the Homœopathic System, founded by Dr. SAMUEL HAHNEMANN, in the following words:—"And what is Homœopathia? It is an insane phantom, and does neither good nor harm."

If such an opinion were uttered privately by the learned Professor, I would have thought it unworthy any notice, but it was declared in public, before a large and respectable audience, which more or less, is materially interested, to know what Homœopathia is; and as I am practising according to the fundamental principles of that system, I feel myself under obligations, to refute such an assertion, and to protest against it, in the name of every friend of Homœopathy, as an improper expression, without foundation in truth. In the following pages, I hope, by the use of proper facts and arguments to maintain my position, and then let the public, and competent judges, decide between us.

I am acting *only* in *defence*, and not with the intention to hurt the feelings of physicians, who practice on a different system, believing that they strive equally with myself, to confer the most possible good upon our fellow-beings, who, afflicted with disease, have to call for medical assistance; and where we introduce, in our essay, third persons and their opinions, the reader will understand, that many charges brought up against the yet common practice of medicine, when compared with Homœopathia, are directed in part against the abuse of a medical treatment, in which some physicians will feel themselves not implicated. May the Doctors please to receive them in as good a humor as I did Dr. Lawson's "*touch*" on Homœopathy, as some called it. We have nothing to do either with personalities, or localities. The contest only regards different principles and

opinions. Every one has a perfect right to act in conformity with his knowledge and predilections,—to suit himself, as far as he does not encroach upon the natural and positive rights of mankind; but as soon as he attacks his neighbor for difference of opinion and practice, the latter will be justified to defend his position in a proper manner, and that is all which we attempt to do. Opposition, when conducted properly and sustained by reason and facts, can only have a salutary operation, appears respectable, and has often materially contributed to progress and improvement. Difference of opinion in matters of science never ought to create animosities. Whoever is acquainted with the science and literature of Homœopathia at the present time, will be far from accusing her as it *formerly* has been done, and even then the assaults upon it were restricted only to most immaterial points. The fundamental law, "*similia similibus curantur*," has, in all conflicts with our opponents, still retained the field, and its glorious banner waves victoriously over many countries.

There are, in the construction of any system, parts, which will more or less admit correction and improvement, as none of us, with all our knowledge, have reached a state of perfection, and never shall; but small matters should be placed in a subordinate rank and not be treated as principal parts, as so often has been done by our opponents. The correctness of our fundamental principles, is tested by reason and experience, and their superiority never could be denied in truth.

We don't want to combat old opinions and objections which have been refuted over and over, *long ago*, but if Dr. Lawson has anything new and original, which has a tendency to affect the Homœopathic System materially, as it presents itself at this period, certainly it will be thankfully and properly received wherever Homœopathia is well-known, admired and advocated.

I would have preferred to leave it to a Homœopathic physician, who uses the English language as his mother-language, to answer Dr. Lawson, but as there is none in my immediate neighborhood, I am compelled to do it myself as well as I can, and I beg the kind indulgence of the reader.

J.. H. A. FEHR, M. D.

Office : Mill Street, near the Post Office.

Lexington, Ky., Nov., 1844.

ESSAY, &c.

Living in an age of improvement, and not of stability, nor of retrogression, every man of high mind will feel himself compelled to keep pace with his time, and every new production in arts and science, promising to benefit the social state of man and to elevate him still higher in the scale of intelligence, will be welcomed. A noble spirit is every moment ready to a conviction for the better. Nothing ought to be accepted or granted, except it has undergone a strict examination and test, but if proved good, it ought to stand as such as long as it is so, and when cast again in shadow by higher progression, even that which has been best adapted to our knowledge of the past, has to concede its station to the advance of new acquirements in science. Onward is the march of intellect and civilization, and it is indifferent how many there are who limp in the rear. Infinite progress will not stop for their sake, nor will they be strong enough to arrest its speed. This very principle, which is established in all departments of science, finds no less its true application in medicine. Why should all her sister sciences advance, and she stand still in the midway of her career? Never be it so. But when the voice of reason is derided, language has to be so much more emphatical to be received. Intending to be brief, we go direct to our task, showing that reform in the art of healing was a demand of our age, and that from the old stem of medicine a new branch of luxurious growth, great beauty and most practical advantage, has sprung up.

The call for reform in medicine sounded from the head-quarters; the most eminent in the profession, for some time, declared themselves dissatisfied with the present state of *materia medica* and medical practice, and were not ashamed to speak it out in public. Let us hear their own expressions:

Dr. GIRTANNER: Our *materia medica* is a mere collection of fallacious observations.*

Dr. HOFFMANN: Per pauca sunt remedia quorum virtutes et operationes certae, plurima vero infida, suspecta, fallacia, ficta.†

Dr. CARANIS: We discover nothing fixed and invariable in the application of medicine, or in the plans they should furnish us for our conduct. With the exception therefore of some principles, which, in consequence of their very general nature, are little calculated to direct us in the detail of every particular circumstance, it seems as if the theoretical knowledge of a physician was reduced to nothing at

* *Hist. Introd. Phar.*

† *Dartellungen.*

the bedside of the sick, and that his practical skill resides in a sort of instinctive acuteness improved by habit and experience.*

Dr. PEREIRA: We can hardly refuse our assent to the observation of the late Sir GILBERT BLANE, that in many cases patients get well in spite of the means employed; and sometimes where the practitioner fancies that he has made a great cure, we may fairly assume the patient to have had a happy escape.†

Dr. PARIS: That such fluctuations in opinion and versatility in practice should have produced, even in the most candid and learned observers, an unfavorable impression with regard to the general efficacy of medicines, can hardly excite our astonishment, much less our indignation; nor can we be surprized that another portion of mankind has at once arraigned physic as a fallacious art, or derided it as a composition of error and fraud. They ask, and it must be confessed that they ask with reason, what pledge can be afforded them that the boasted remedies of the present day will not, like their predecessors, fall into disrepute, and in their turn serve only as humiliating memorials of the credulity and infatuation of the physicians who commend and prescribe them; in the progress of the history of medicines, when are we able to produce a discovery or improvement, which has been the result of that happy combination of observation, analogy and experiment, which has so eminently rewarded the labors of modern science?‡

Dr. JOHN MASON GOOD: As the historian of medicine approaches nearer to his own times he finds his path encumbered with almost insurmountable difficulties. The subject on which he has to treat differs perhaps from every other branch of science in this circumstance: that our actual information does not increase in any degree in proportion to our experience. Hence, it follows, that the accumulation of materials frequently rather retards than promotes its progress. In other sciences, although truth is not to be attained without a certain degree of laborious research, yet to those who are willing to bestow on it the requisite attention, it is for the most part attainable, or if it still eludes our grasp, we are at least sensible of the deficiency, and generally ascertain the precise nature of the obstacles which impede our progress. In other sciences, when we enter upon an inquiry or propose to ourselves any object for experiment or observation, we are able to say whether the result of our inquiry has been satisfactory, and whether the object in view has or has not been accomplished. But this unfortunately is not the case in Medicine.||

Dr. ABERCROMBIE: Since medicine was first cultivated as a science, a leading object of attention has been to ascertain the character or symptoms by which internal diseases are indicated, and by which they are distinguished from other diseases that resemble them. But with the accumulated experience of ages bearing upon this important sub-

*Essay on the Certainty of Medicine. †Lecture on Pharmacology.

‡Lecture delivered in London before the Royal College of Physicians.

||On the Study of Medicine.

ject, our extended observation has only served, to convince us how deficient we are in this department, and how often, even in the first step in our progress, we are left to conjecture. A writer of high eminence has even hazarded the assertion, that those persons are most confident in regard to the characters of disease whose knowledge is most limited, and that more extended observation generally leads to doubt. An equal, or even more remarkable uncertainty, attends all our researches on the action of external agents upon the body. These engage our attention in two respects; as causes of disease and as remedies and in both these views the action of them is fraught with the highest degree of uncertainty. * * * * When, in the practice of medicine, we apply to new cases the knowledge acquired from other cases, which we believe to be of the same nature, the difficulties are so great that it is doubtful, whether in any case we can properly be said to act upon experience, as we do in other branches of science. The difficulties and sources of uncertainty, which meet us at every stage of such investigation, are in fact so great and numerous, that those, who have the most extensive opportunities of observation, will be the first to acknowledge, that our pretended experience must, in general, sink into analogy, and even our analogy, too often, into conjecture.*

Dr. S. JACKSON, (commenting on the imperfect state in which medicine appears, and referring to the necessity of reform:) Can this reform be much longer postponed? I believe not. The interests of the profession are too deeply implicated to admit that things should long continue in their present state. It cannot be concealed that public confidence in the knowledge and intelligence of the profession has been shaken,—has been most materially impaired in some sections of the country. In the regular practice, has not the treatment of disease too much degenerated into a blind routine, pursued in nearly every disease, however dissimilar in nature? Let medicine be what in reality it is, a science of calculation, of combination, of induction, the elements of which are deduced from the phenomena of organized beings, and the relations of exterior agents with them.†

Dr. JAMES RUSH: It seems to be one of the rules of faith in our art, that every truth must be helped into belief by some persuasive fiction of the school; and I here owe it to the general reader to confess, that as far as I know, the medical profession can scarcely produce a single volume in its practical department, from the works of Hippocrates down to the last made text-book, which, by the requisitions of an exact philosophy, will not be found to contain nearly as much fiction as truth.‡

Dr. MAGENDIE: The chain that binds Allopathia to its fixed position must be broken; it is a humiliating position of medical science. The people see it to be a mere race between physician and disease, as to which can reduce the patient first, while the medical standards show as an established principle, that both disease and medicine act with a power proportionate to the debility of the patient. (Exp.)

*Inquiries concerning the intellectual powers and the investigation of truth.

+Introductory Lecture to the Medical Students of the Univer. of Penn.

†The Philosophy of the Human Voice.

And in the Introduction to his Physiology: The natural sciences, like history, have had their fabulous period. Astronomy commenced in astrology; chemistry was not long since alchemy; and medicine but a combination of absurd hypotheses. Strange condition of the human mind, which seems to require that it should long exercise itself in error before it dare approach the truth.

What does Dr. Lawson think of such declarations from his own party against the medical system he favors himself?

The absurdities of such practice of medicine Hahnemann has strongly and continually exposed, and for that reason the medical schools, and their obedient imitators, form such an ignoble opposition. As Hahnemann is the founder of the Homœopathic System, or reformed system of medical practice, we shall insert here his Biography, as being, no doubt, interesting to some. We take it from the "Encyclopædia Americana."

HAHNEMANN, SAMUEL CHRISTIAN FREDERIC, Doctor of Medicine, Counsellor of the Duke of Anhalt-Cothen, was born April 10, 1755, at Meissen, in Saxony. His father educated him with much care. While at the University of Leipsic, Hahnemann was obliged to support himself by translating English medical books, and thus even provided himself with means to continue his medical studies at Vienna. After a year's residence in this city, he was appointed Physician, Librarian and Superintendent of a Museum of Coins, by Baron von Bruckenthal, Governor of Transylvania. After some years he returned to Germany, studied another year in Erlangen, and took his degree of Doctor in Physic in 1779, on which occasion he defended a dissertation, "Conspectus affectuum spasmodicorum." He then practised at Marsfield, Dessau and Magdeburg. He afterwards relinquished the practice and devoted himself to chemistry, and to writing on medical subjects. At this time he conceived the first idea of the system which he afterwards developed. While engaged in translating Cullen's *Materia Medica*, he was dissatisfied with the explanation of the antipyretic principles in the Peruvian bark, given by that celebrated physician, and he determined to discover, by experiments, on what the power of the bark, in intermittent fevers, depended. He took it in considerable quantity while in perfect health, and found that it produced an ague similar to the intermittent March fever. He seized upon this hint of nature in his practice, which he had again commenced in the Insane Hospital in Georgenthal, at Brunswick and Konigslutter, where by many experiments of the effects of simple medicines on himself and his family, he acquired so much knowledge of their nature, that he effected many remarkable cures by Homœopathic applications. The physicians and apothecaries immediately began to persecute him, and, at last, effected his removal by authority, on the ground of his having violated the law forbidding physicians to furnish themselves the medicines that they prescribed, which, in his way of proceeding was necessary. He then practised in different places in the north of Germany; and, at Torgau, he wrote his *Organon der Rationellen*

Heilkunde, (Dresden, 1810.) A dispute was carried on for twelve years, on the merits of his Homœopathic system. In Leipzig, where he again defended a thesis, *De Helleborismo Veterum*, (1812,) in order to obtain the privileges of a doctor in Leipzig, he taught and practised medicine with success for eleven years; the excitement respecting his system became at length so great, that Government, yielding to the petition of the apothecaries, reminded Hahnemann of the before-mentioned law, forbidding physicians to administer medicines prepared by themselves—a law quite common in Germany.* He could, therefore, no longer practice medicine in that city, according to his system, and the Duke Ferdinand of Anhalt-Cothen offered him an asylum. In 1821 he went to Cothen. He has endeavored to cure the most inveterate and protracted diseases, during the last six years, by a new application of the homœopathic remedies; but for want of a Clinical Hospital, has not been able, properly, to exhibit his system.

So far the Ency. Amer. (We add that a Clinical Hospital is of great service to a Homœopathist, to show the efficacy of his treatment in its full force and its beneficial results, as many cures in private practice are interrupted, and sometimes made impossible by many exposures and imprudent acts of patients left to themselves.) As Duke Ferdinand of Anhalt-Cothen raised Hahnemann to the distinction of Court Counsellor, and employed him as domestic Physician, he was at the same time favored with an entire immunity from the apothecaries' monopoly. There he quietly labored, concentrating his energies with Drs. Brunnow, Muhlenbein, Staph and Moritz Muller, to perfect the edifice, so well designed, and began to enjoy enviable reputation, popularity and happiness, in the midst of a family of affectionate children, who participated in the trials of their parent through weal and woe. In 1829, himself and friends celebrated his fiftieth anniversary of Doctorship. In the year 1835, he married Miss Marie Melonie d'Herville-Gohier, as his second wife, a French lady, forty years of age, perfectly independent as to fortune, and descended from an ancient family of wealth and rank, whom he had cured, and was induced by her to take up his residence at Paris, where he was engaged in an extensive practice. During the hours devoted to medical attendance his anti-chambers were crowded with patients, and the street with carriages from far and near, and hours elapsed before the afflicted in their turn could receive admission. After an illness of six weeks Dr. Hahnemann died in his eighty-ninth year, on Sunday, the 2d of July, 1843. His death was deplored by thousands of his intimate friends and admirers, but his fame, as one of the greatest benefactors of mankind, has immortalized his name, and has erected for him a blessed monument in the hearts of suffering and intelligent fellow-beings, which is rising

*After the famous battle, near his residence, Leipzig, 16th, 17th and 18th of Oct., 1813, a contagious typhus was developed, which proved most fatal to those attacked with it. Hahnemann gave instructions to combat it successfully, and out of one hundred and eighty patients, under his own attendance, all recovered except one, already advanced in age.

daily and yearly with the progressive history of humanity. Among his numerous writings and translations, his "Organon of the Rational Art of Healing," in several editions; his "Materia Medica Pura," in 6 vol. edited from 1811-21, and the "Chronic Maladies," in 5 vol. from 1828-35, form his classical works in Homœopathia.

The cry for reform in Materia Medica and Medical Practice has echoed as we have already proved from Germany, France, Italy, Great Britain and America, and every feeling physician, whose only aim is to relieve the sufferings of his fellow-beings did (in the acknowledgement of the insufficiency of the result of the common practice in so many instances,) sincerely wish for substantial improvement. Hahnemann has undertaken to accomplish this desirable object by establishing the principle of *similia similibus curantur* (diseases are cured by similar affections) as a *fundamental* law in medicine, not as a mere *hypothesis*, but as tested by *experience*. But how has it been done? not by following the same track from which his predecessors profiting very little by the experience of others, have not deviated much for some thousand years. Any traveller of common sense will, as soon as he sees that the road he is following to arrive at a certain place of destination, leads him in a contrary direction, abstain from such a course and take a different one, and if required, even a strict *opposite* one to gain the point in view. So Halmemann, by translating Cullens' Materia Medica, 1790, was struck by the recommendations the author bestowed on Cinchona in different diseases—and not being able to account for the reason of it, tried the bark on himself to find out its effects, and as such he noticed a febrile action similar to that of fever and ague, for which it was used in most cases as specific. The idea that medicines ought to be administered first to a person in health, to see their effect, and then according to the result in diseases, was the rule for Hahneman's further experiments. He tried the effects of a couple hundred of medicines on himself. The same medicines were tried again on his own family and by his friends and disciples; the observation and result proved to be correct, and according to the principle "like cures like," they were applied in medical practice with undeniable success, and so Hahnemann says, fully justified, "*I speak from experience.*" The principle *similia similibus curantur* had been pronounced before Hahnemann, though rather only in some single cases. He first brought it before the profession as a system.

HIPPOCRATES in his aphorism: Disease arises by similars and men are cured by similars administered.

Vomitus vomitu curantur: Vomiting cured by vomits. At another place he says: The most diseases are cured by the same means, which brought on the disease.

BASILIUS VALENTINUS, in his book, "de Microcosmo," plainly comes out: "Like is to be expelled by its like, and not by its contrary, heat by heat, cold by cold, piercing by piercing; for heat attracts heat, cold attracts cold, as the magnet does in regard to iron. He who does not

attend to that, is not a real physician, and may in silence boast of no medicine." And in his *Curus triumphalis Antimonii*, repeating the sentence: Poison against poison, he adduces the following examples: A frozen egg thaws in cold water, a frozen limb gets sound by fomentations of snow water. On inflamed parts of the body apply an inflammative matter, namely alcohol, which is pure fire, or the quintessence of sulphur; one heat then attracts the other, according to the magnetic manner and form, espouses the heat of its equal, and brings to the inflamed limb not relief but recovery." Hieronymus Cardanus, rejecting the Galenian doctrine of contrariety of remedies to the disease, declared, that e. g. diarrhœa was to be treated by purgatives, and constipation of the bowels by opium.

PARACELSIUS asserts: *Neque enim unquam ullus morbus calidus per frigida sanatus fuit nec frigidus per calida; simile autem suum simile frequenter curavit*, and his successor, Van Helmont, making reference to Paracelsus says; *Tandem fervore contradicendi omnium medelam constituit in similitudine tam naturæ, quam causarum morbificarum cum ipso remedio.*

STAHL from DENMARK writes: The received method in medicine of curing diseases by opposite remedies, that is to say by medicines which are opposed to the effects they produce, (*contraria contrariis*) is completely false and absurd. I am convinced of the contrary, that diseases are produced by agents, which produce a similar affection, (*similia similibus*) burns by the heat of the fire, to which the parts are exposed; the frostbite by snow or ice-cold water, and inflammation and contusions by spirituous application. I have succeeded in curing a disposition to acidity of the stomach, by using very small doses of sulphuric acid, in cases where a multitude of absorbing powders had been administered to no purpose.

ALB. HALLER remarks, in the preface to his *Pharmacopia, Helvetica*: 1771: *Nempe primum in corpore sano medela tentanda est, sine peregrina ulla miscela odoreque et sapore ejus exploratis, exigua illius dosis ingerenda; et ad omnes quae inde contingunt affectiones, qui pulsus qui calor, quæ respiratio, quænam excretiones attendendum. Inde ad ductum phænomenorum, in sano obviorum, transeas ad experimenta in corpore ægerto, &c.*

HUNTER "on the blood," recommends in burns the method of exposing the parts to the fire, and speaks of the great inconvenience that arises from the application of cold water to burns.

SYDENHAM gives in burns repeated applications of alcohol the preference to all other remedies.

B. BELL thinks alcohol, which is of a heating nature, and more effective when heated, is one of the best remedies for burns of every description. The application first appears to increase the pain, but the latter is soon allayed and gives place to an agreeable sensation of calm and tranquillity.

E. KENTISH uses hot application of oil of turpentine or alcohol to burns, believing that any part of the system having its action increased

to a very high degree, must continue to be excited, though in a less degree, either by the stimulus which caused the increased action, or some other having the nearest similarity to it, until by degrees the extraordinary action subsides into the healthy action of the part, with process he terms the "unity of action."

Is this all not Homœopathic practice? The treatment is according to the law, "similia similibus." We find similar principles in common use. Raw cotton is used in burns, by the application of which, according to Dr. Anderson, the heat of the part is retained. In the winter of the horrible retreat of the French army from Moscow, thousands of soldiers owed the preservation of their frozen limbs to frictions with snow. When plants have suffered from a severe frost, gardeners sprinkle them with cold water before sunrise, to take the frost out.

The correctness of our references will not be disputed, and much less the truth of the fundamental law of the homœopathic system. We have given the above examples as they are more or less familiar to every person without any particular knowledge of medicine. As the homœopathic system rests on experience, and not on mere hypothesis or conjecture, it can be proved every day over and over again, to the full satisfaction of every one whose mind is open to conviction.

We have theories, in the history of Medicine, which seem to be artfully constructed, but, tested by practical application, they have been sustained only for a short period. Not so in Homœopathia; and now we shall proceed to the most material, the practical part of it. Physicians desirous to get full information on that system have to study the classical works which have been issued by the press in different languages.

Practical Advantages of Homœopathia..

THE HOMŒOPATHIC SYSTEM RECOMMENDS ITSELF BY ITS "SIMPLICITY."

The fundamental laws of nature are simple and so are the principles of Homœopathia. She rejects any classification of medicines; homœopaths call them only by their proper name, for instance: Aconitum, Bryonia, Chamomilla, Camphora, Phosphorus, Pulsatilla, Sulphur, and their effect on the healthy body forms their pathogenesis. Let us hear BICHAT on the denomination and classification of medicines in the common school practice or Allopathia:

"To what errors have not mankind been led in the employment and denomination of medicines? They created deobstruents, when the theory of obstruction was in fashion, and incisives when that of thickening of the humors prevailed. The expressions of diluents and attenuants were common before this period. When it was necessary to blunt the æcid particles, they created inviscants, incrassants, &c.

Those who saw in disease only a relaxation or tension of the fibres, the laxum and strictum, as they called it, employed astringents and

relaxants. Refrigerants and heating remedies were brought into use by those who had a special regard in disease to an excess or deficiency of caloric. The same identical remedies have been employed under different names, according to the manner in which they were supposed to act. Deobstruent in one case, relaxant in another, refrigerant in another, the same medicine has been employed with all these opposite views; so true it is that the mind of man gropes in the dark, when it is guided only by the wildness of opinion. Hence the vagueness and uncertainty our science presents at this day. An incoherent assemblage of incoherent opinions ; it is, perhaps of all the physiological sciences, that which best shows the caprice of the human mind. What do I say? Is it not a science for a methodical mind? It is a shapeless assemblage of inaccurate ideas, of observations often puerile, of deceptive remedies and of formulæ as fantastically conceived, as they are tediously arranged." So far BICHAT. Now listen to PEREIRA: "Scarcely two medicines give rise to precisely the same effects, and as we are unable to determine the nature of the modification produced by each, it is impossible to bring the substances used in medicine under a general good arrangement. Every writer who has attempted it, has found the facts hitherto ascertained insufficient for his purpose and has, therefore, been necessarily obliged to call in the aid of theory; hence the so-called physiological classification of medicine is, in reality, founded on the prevailing medicinal doctrines of the day, or on the peculiar notions of the writer! Would it do to tell our patients this? Pereira illustrates his opinion by stating, that mercury is by several writers, (as Drs. Cullen, Chapman, Young and Eberle,) placed in the class of sialagogues; by many, (as Drs. A. T. Thomson, M. M. Edwards and Vavasseur and M. M. Troussseau and Pidoux) among excitants; by some (as Conradi, Bretele and Horn) it is considered to be sedative; by one (Sir W. Philip) to be stimulant in small doses, and sedative in large ones; by some (as Dr. Jno. Murray) it is placed among tonics; by another (Vogt) among the resolventia, alterantia; by one (Sundelin) among the liqueficients; by the followers of Broussais (as Begin) among revulsives; by the Italians, (as Giacomini) among contrastimulants or hyposthenics; by others (as Barbier) among the "incertæ sedis."—Mercury, is the Panacea of the old school, though in the United States Dispensatory by Wood and Bache, which is a standard work for the Allopathic practitioner we read: "Of the modus operandi of mercury, we know *nothing*, except that it *probably* acts through the medium of circulation, and that it possesses a peculiar alterative power over the vital functions, which enables it in many cases to subvert diseased actions by substituting its own in their stead."

The *homeopathic* physician has his sure and positive indication for selection of the proper remedy, not in the classification of medicines, but in the law, "*similia similibus.*" If his remedy selected covers satisfactorily the ensemble of the symptoms to be treated, his prescription is "*secundum artem.*"

For: a similar reason is the fashionable name of diseases to the Homœopathist non-essential. Are physicians always correct in their diagnosis; and does not disease often appear in such a complicated form, that the doctor is at a loss to give a corresponding name for it? Often are names of disease only treated, instead of disease itself. How pernicious that must be, is obvious. The real disease is not only not counteracted by a proper treatment, but the system is attacked, where it is not at all affected and disease runs its course. Call to a difficult case about ten allopathic physicians, take the opinion of each one single, and hardly two or three will agree. Suppose the case be Scarlatina. A. says the patient must be bled. B. says no! if you bleed your patient, you kill him. C. relies altogether on vomits. D. on calomel. E. on a little sweet spirits of nitre and warm water gargles. F. on pepper gargles. G. on cold affusions. H. on tepid affusions. K. on rum and water, and so on: "quot capita tot sensus." If that is good doctrine and good practice, remarks Dr. Kitchen, where there is such a diversity of opinion, and that too, according to the idea of the practitioner, God help us! It is high time that better principles should be inculcated, and a more positive and assured practice, even did not better success attend it. The same remark may be applied to the allopathic treatment of other diseases, Erysipelas for instance—what assurance has the patient when he is ordered to be bled, or leeched, or scarified, that he ought not be stuffed with bark and wine, and other stimulants? Away with such uncertain practice. Let us be more consistent, based on more solid principles, regulated more by correct rules, and not left to the uncertain whims and follies of prejudiced practitioners. Indeed, reform is greatly needed, when we see such confusion, ect. No wonder then that Moliere and La Sage should cast ridicule on the noblest profession on earth, when such are its uncertainties; and no wonder either, that the Chevalier Gatti once made use of the following apologue to the Grand Duke of Tuscany, after renouncing a practice of thirty years, and saying that he was weary of guessing. "Nature is fighting with the disease; a blind man (the physician) armed with a club, comes to settle the difference. He first tries to make peace, when he cannot accomplish this, he lifts his club and strikes at random; if he strike the disease, he kills the disease; if he strike nature, he kills nature."

Let us see how *homœopathic* Physicians appear in such cases. The symptoms of his sufferings, the patient will tell to one or a hundred Physicians alike, at the same time; and as in prescribing for his disease, there can only be one remedy which will cover properly the complex of the symptoms in which the disease, at that time, consists, Homœopathic Physicians having the rule, *similia similibus curantur*, for an unerring guide, will easily agree in the one remedy, called for at each time, and when either by only one medicine, or by some given in proper succession, *pro re rata*, all symptoms of the disease are removed, the disease itself is no more. Not the name of the disease should be the main object under consideration, but the symptoms form-

ing the disease. The Physician has only to do with disease as it represents itself by symptoms; and his main business is not to generalize, but to individualize. *Nihil sane in artem medicam pestiferum magis unquam irrepsit malum, quam generalia quædam nomina morbis imponere, iisque aptare velle generalem quandam medicinam.*—Huxham Op. Phys. Med.

HAHNEMANN divided disease only into acute and chronic, or in diseases of a moderate or of a long duration. To show the simplicity and unity of Homœopathia yet more, we have to relate, that only ONE medicine, at a time, is prescribed, of which we know most certain its nature and effect in health and disease. The remedy has to be homo-symptomatic, as Rummel expresses himself.

If many drugs are put up and mixed together, as in Allopathia, who is able to make a true calculation as to what will be the effect of each single medicine, and what must be the result of the mixtum compositum? Will each simple of the compound act as the Physician wishes for, and from such a combination of several drugs can never partial or total neutralization or decomposition of the one or the other medicine result, and what will be the effect then? Such uncertainty is at once avoided by administering only ONE medicine at a time. A Homœopathic rule.

HOMŒOPATHIA SHOWS GREAT ADVANTAGES BY FOLLOWING A "DIRECT" TREATMENT.

The *homœopathic* medicine having a *specific* action, the treatment is directed *only* to the part or organ affected, and not to any other one. The treatment of Allopathia being *INDIRECT*, attacks often cruelly the sound parts, even reduces the system in many cases near to prostration, to weaken the disease. Homœopathia attacks *not* the *sound* parts of the system for the sake of performing a cure and so the indirect means of venæsection, emetics, physics, blisters, setons and moxa are not applied by her and, according to Hahnemann, worse than useless. Why increase the patients suffering in so cruel a manner? Even Veterenarians, who have adopted the reformed system for treatment of diseases of the brute creation, have abandoned the former barbarous practice. Is it not melancholy that human beings endowed with high sensibility and with intellect and reason, are submitted to such disgusting and tormenting modes of treatment?

Bleeding says A. EUSTACHIEVE allays the inflammation—aconite or wolfs-bane does the same. So far the effects may be the same; but as regards health they are fearfully different. There poor nature is weakened into submission and made to propitiate the tyrant at the expense of her future safety; here the tyrant is encountered hand to hand, subdued, and compelled to leave nature in the full possession of her powers.—In one case the fermentation is stopped and the contents are saved; in the other, the contents are spilled to change the fermentation, and the more there is drawn off the more will rise to the issue to be drawn off again, until little or nothing is left within. By this pro-

cess the precious fluid is wasted, vitality impaired, the extremities completely drained and the dissolution of the sufferer commences at the moment that the inflammation ceases. The true difference between the act of bleeding and the substituted homœopathic dose is, that the first takes away from the source of life which it cannot replenish, while the last restores and preserves it in all its purity—and this is the precise difference between the two systems. As to the indications by spontaneous effusion, bleeding at the nose, &c., &c., they show an irregular accumulation or unusual flow of blood in some parts to the detriment of others: the idea of having too much blood is as preposterous as that of a vessel containing more water, than its capacity will admit. A superabundance of the means of life is a doctrine well worthy of ignorance or a disordered imagination. Restore the equality of circulation and the patient is cured at once. This is what Homœopathia does without bleeding. This is the way in which she removes apoplexy with so little danger of relapse. This is the way she cured in a few days the most acute pleurisy in the city of New York, contrary to the prediction of speedy death with which Allopathia consoled herself for being repulsed in her attempts to open the sluices of life. To aid nature by crippling her—to heal by reducing the chances of recovery, to purify the fountain of health by desiccation or by cutting of its main supplies—to give life by taking it away—in short to bleed,—is a barbarous piece of absurdity, no less destructive in itself, than disgraceful to the present state of science and general civilization."

Some physicians according to the maxim "nulla regula sine exceptione," think it proper to deviate from the above opinion in a few cases, pleading: *abusus non tollit usum.*

DR. SPERANZA remarks, that among those laboring under pneumonia—*inflammation of the lungs*—who had been attended by DR. BRERA, the fatal results were just in equal proportion to the number of venæsections. Of one hundred patients treated without bleeding, fourteen died, of those bled twice nineteen; of those bled from three to nine times, twenty two, of those bled more than nine times sixty-eight in the hundred.

Bleeding, no doubt, is among the *first* causes that many diseases assume a typhoid character.

DR. JAMES KITCHEN, of Philadelphia, writes: "What is called the depleting plan kills its thousands every year, from the infant in the cradle to the old man tottering to his last fall, and plucks the blooming rose from many a beauty's cheek. Should the unfortunate patient have stamina he may survive, but even then with a broken and shattered constitution, destined to feel the effects of such a depletion as long as life remains, and to be an invalid to his last day. This is no exaggerated picture, and if this be correct practice, alas! poor human nature, such never could have been the intention of the creator of man; it is man's own false work and worth nothing, and should at once be corrected."

During the discussion in 1841 between Drs. DRAPER and WATSON, at Boston, Dr. D. stated that in the course of four years he had taken

from the citizens of Boston and vicinity, 100 barrels of blood, and had administered forty-nine pounds of Mercury, and Dr. CROSERIO of Paris relates: The celebrated Bouvard, physician to Louis XIII, ordered his royal patient 47 bleedings, 215 emetics or purgatives and 612 clysters, during the space of one year. No wonder the King appears as history represents him. During the extremes to which the so called physiological medicine was carried, more than six millions of leeches were used in the Hospital of Paris and at the hotel Dieu, and more than two hundred thousand pounds of human blood were spilt in one year!

What injurious effects result to the sick from applications made according to the prevailing opinions on the nature of diseases! How many poisonings from active medicines or medicines, for a long time repeated, from emetics, purgatives, sudorifics, diuretics! Since the days of Dr. JOHNSON, who introduced the frequent use of Calomel from his East India practice, the multitude of Doctors, especially of English education, seeing a tongue coated and a pulse irritated, cannot forbear prescribing (if not laxatives, emetics or bleeding) Calomel to salivation. Dr. RUSII termed this virulent agent the "Sampson" of the *Materia Medica*; a name proper indeed, because it has slain its thousands, and it is in a great measure owing to its abuse, that scrophula, rachitis, (rickets,) liver complaints and dyspepsia are so prevalent in this country.

Dr. C. HERING declares: "The very popular opinion that purging contributes to health, not only when the body suffers from sickness, but also from time to time in a healthy state, that the impurities are driven out of the body, is entirely erroneous and without foundation.—This is nothing but a desire of doctors and apothecaries to sell their drugs, but they have repeated it so often during thousands of years that they have long ago believed it themselves; it is a traditional part of the creed of half the world, and no one dares to doubt it. Many physicians have spread and encouraged this idea, because their whole art consisted in bleeding, purging and giving emetics. This creed is the pivot upon which the whole of the old system turns, and it is the bait to catch credulous patients with; for where they speak of these things with proper solemnity, every heart and every purse opens, and persons who are actually in good health feel a real longing to be properly scrubbed and cleaned inside.

"Every one who will make the following experiment upon a horse, or upon himself, will be convinced that our opposition to purging is well founded. Let an individual take aperient medicines for a week, and however healthy he may have been, he will find at the termination of this period he will discharge the most abominable things imaginable, particularly after jalap and calomel. As this happens to every one, both to man and beast, to those who have never been ill, it is a proof, that these things have been artificially produced by these drugs. Frequently we are able to judge from the nature of the secretion, what medicine had been administered. After salts, the evacuation always smells like rotten eggs; after drastic gums, they are thin and watery; af-

ter mercury, green; after magnesia and rhubarb, generally sour, &c. When we inquire into the cause of this purging, we find that all poisonous substances have a similar effect, and that for this reason we may class the purgatives with propriety among the poisons. Some look upon them as a real godsend, and imagine that they have been created for this very purpose; but do they think also that the rattlesnake and the tiger are created to devour us? But if we admit that they are intended to be used as medicines, it is no reason that when we see them produced in great quantities, we should take so much of them. Virulent poisons, although given but in small portions, produce vomiting and purging, or destroy the stomach; the less virulent poisons are called purgatives, merely because they do not kill immediately, but are generally rejected by nature."

A similar effect have emetics on the stomach and biliary system. The oftener they are repeated the more bilious appear the contents thrown up, according to the law: *Ubi irritatio ibi affluxus.* Where irritation exists there is an afflux. Let for instance a person in health rub his eyes several times a day for some minutes only and continue so for some time, and he will see what a deviation from a healthy to a diseased action will take place. The friction will irritate the eyes and eyelids, bring on an increased flow of blood to it, cause redness, fever and pain—and finally suppuration. Or scratch one of your arms or legs mornings and evenings, at the same place, for some time and soon that place will begin to itch, to be irritated and sore, and the more you scratch the worse it will get. That the lining membranes of the stomach and intestines are much more delicate, easier irritated and by purging and vomiting medicines soon morbidly affected—what is so often mistaken for the original disease though it is the noxious action of the drastic medicines—is quite obvious and can be proved to every body on persons in health. That explains again why some patients as long as they take medicines of the old school, remain patients, and often get well as soon as they cease to take such sickening drugs.

Emetics are dangerous to persons of a delicate constitution or of weak lungs, or to such as suffer from congestion, or are afflicted with hernia, (ruptures) and repeated emetics will weaken the stomach, so will physics and cathartics pills composed always of drastic medicines, predispose to dyspepsia, habitual costiveness, irritation of the bowels, liver complaint, to piles or haemorrhoids, and to prolapsus recti.

BRUCHHAUSEN on the allopathic system alleges: "The common practice tries to force, to oppress, to violate nature, and the physician is rather to be styled a tragedian, exhibiting so many acts of the same drama, and destined to accompany his hero to the burial ground.—Even the living, those recovered by or in spite of their interference do not generally do much honor to Allopathists. The inhabitants of no part of the world possess, comparatively speaking, so great an abundance of comforts as those of the United States, favored by their political and social institutions; notwithstanding these advantages no where

does sickness prevail to so large an extent, a calamity, which besides luxury and climate can mostly be retraced to drugs swallowed as medicines, and to the extraction of blood. It accounts for beauty decayed in its prime, strength prostrated in the vigor of life, fair complexion and full habit reduced to pallor and emaciation, the ornaments of the mouth blackened and ratling, leathern faces, rheumatic arthritic-living thermometers, &c., &c.,—all effects of the abuse of Mercury, Iodine, Cinchona, Arsenic, Opium and other drugs."

If all the blood wantonly spilled by physicians could be gathered an Amazonian river, or an ocean, might be formed, and if all the unfortunate victims who have fallen under the plague like calomel mania, could be heaped together, their skeletons would form mountains, like a Sorato or a Himmaleh. Alas! this chills the very heart blood of a reflecting mind, and fills his soul with horror towards such a medical practice. The best way indeed to cut life short. How well does such a treatment correspond with the daily prayers and wishes for longevity. Bleeding, purging and vomiting was the medical treatment of old time, and in the centuries of the so called "dark ages." It may be supposed that it was more adapted to the robust and strong constitutions of barbarous nations, though no one who is acquainted with the organic laws of nature will believe that they even then were benefited by it.—Homœopathia, a system of modern times, is more adapted to the present state of our constitutions and rather delicate frames, is more in conformity with the progress of science and civilization and therefore will be more conducive to the promotion of our health and happiness.

Converse with persons who are intimately acquainted with the reformed practice, and they will in the most emphatic terms extoll their predilections for the new system and the benefits it bestows upon its followers.

Professor ESCHENMAYER makes the following pertinent observations: "Homœopathia is the direct method and Allopathia the indirect. Of direct methods there can be only one, of the indirect many, as the anti-phlogistic, resolvent, revulsive, deobstruent, &c., &c.

"By the direct method an impulse is given to the specific reaction of the healing power, so that the disease is not only attacked in its effects upon the different organs and systems, as with the indirect method, but in its origin and seat, where it is prevented from passing through its different stages. Why should this not be possible? Why should we not be able to find agents having a direct dynamical effect upon the specific reaction of the healing power? There is no reasonable ground to doubt it.

"With Homœopathia experience has already strongly corroborated this. To pretend to deny this, shows either ignorance, stubbornness, indolence, or dread of new systems."

How much preferable the direct or homœopathic method of treating disease is to the indirect or allopathic, appears clearly to every reflecting mind by what has been said in this chapter.

THE USE OF "SMALL" DOSES SPEAKS AGAIN IN FAVOR OF HOMOEOPATHIA.

For this she has been ridiculed enormously, but never by one that has taken that minute dose of medicine himself, in conformity with the homœopathic principles. The old school, which attacks the *sound* organs of the system for the purpose of curing diseased ones, has to use medicines in *large* doses to see some effect, but as the new school lets the sound parts of the body alone, and directs the treatment only to morbidly affected organs, which by the conditions of disease have their susceptibilities greatly exalted, it is easily accounted for that small doses will answer. Hahnemann, in the beginning prescribed large doses too, but for good reason abandoned them for smaller ones.

Dr. DURINGE an able opponent of Homœopathia admits the potency of small doses in its full extent and cites cases in which he has proved it himself. Dr. ELLIOTTS, the distinguished oculist of the city of New York, had casual information on the subject of Homœopathia just far enough to excite his curiosity, and to fix him in the rejection of all belief in minute homœopathic doses. Subsequent discussions appealing to his liberality and sense of justice, induced him to ascertain the truth, by a better and more conclusive evidence, than that of his own previous incredulity, a practice so general among the opponents of the new system and he resolved to judge and decide by the test of his own feelings and sensations. Common charcoal for the very reason that it is a well known harmless substance, taken with impunity at discretion (it is used as a medicine in Homœopathia) was selected for the trial and given him in pills of the fourth degree of dilution, that is each pill containing one millionth part of a grain of charcoal, three of them to be taken every day, and the whole in the course of six !! Great indeed was his astonishment, when in spite of his resolution to go on, he found himself compelled to stop on the fourth day, for by this time the overpowering effect of what he had already taken, was quite sufficient and so painful as to convince him not to advance any farther. In short he was perfectly satisfied, and so would be any one who is not a wilful rebel against the paramount principle that condemnation should *follow*, not *precede* the trial.

Another important witness is Dr. BRERA, who, as respects small doses, says, they are by no means to be rejected indiscriminately. In 1797 I demonstrated the fact, that salivation produced by mercury could be quickly cured by a small dose of an another mercurial preparation. Several intermittent fevers I have cured with small atoms of the arseniate of potash.—[SS. Annotazione medico-pratiche Pavia.] In 1804, I stated that belladonna produces in healthy persons a disease very similar to hydrophobia, although it is a powerful remedy in this terrible disease. In the year 1822, I discovered in stramonium (a few drops of the tincture) a most excellent remedy for angina pectoris, although it is well known, from many histories of poisons, that it produces on the healthy subject, symptoms very much resembling this

disease. An hysterical gastrodynia, which defied for the space of two years all antiphlogistic and derivative remedies, as well as large doses of the magisterium bisinuthi, was finally removed by smaller doses of this medicine. I might enumerate a great many similar cases from the records of my long practice, remarks Brera, and to this mode of employing medicines I have been led by an observation of Hippocrates, to which Professor Blumenbach, of Goettingen, has drawn my attention, it is the following: Diseases are sometimes cured by medicines capable of producing similar affections."

We ask in what way, in cases of great weakness and fainting, do smelling-bottles, containing eau de Cologne, or spirits of hartshorn, &c., take effect and give relief? How large or small is the dose to be taken by smelling only? Experience teaches to satisfaction that the organs are capable of being affected by very feeble influences or stimulants. We mention the virus of syphilis and hydrophobia, the effects of vaccination, of infection by misasma, plague, and epidemic diseases in general, the frequent most alarming effects of grief, joy, fright and anger on the constitution; and what is to be said of the immense, all-surpassing powers of imponderables as electricity, magnetism, light, heat, &c.

There is one thing our adversaries state in favor of Homœopathia: that if homœopathic medicines do no good, they can do no harm; a sentence which cannot be applied to the allopathic practice. Regarding doses in general, we may here state, that the physician is not bound to prescribe high attenuations and triturations, he can administer the lower ones, or, pro re nata, the medicines in the common form in any doses he may find indication for. The Homœopathist is under no narrow restrictions; he selects any kind of medicine, which as a remedial agent, in his system, will bring about a cure, and he applies the medicine in such doses and strength as the case under treatment, and the susceptibility of the patient will require. Where small doses will answer, large ones are not necessary, and neither medicine, nor the doses are the main object; but the *cure*, and if it should be performed by nothing else but by cold water, so much the better. The best physicians are well known to have always used the least medicine, and vice versa. Further,

HOMŒOPATHIC MEDICINE IS "PLEASANT" AND OF "GENERAL APPLICABILITY."

The taste of people differs, but the most are rather fond of something sweet, and so is homœopathic medicine even in this regard most suitable. The homœopathic medicine can be administered in different ways to suit the patient, either in a sweet small powder, or dissolved in so much water that its taste is not perceived at all, and is more like the purest spring water; or in the form of an alcoholic tincture, or in globules as small as mustard seeds, or by smelling according to the peculiar case. Under one of these forms any person can take it. Children like it very much, and it can be given to them, even when they are asleep, without disturbing them. It dare be prescribed in all

cases of the greatest exhaustion, to bring on re-action in the system, and to give strength, where the physician of the old school has to quit the use of medicines, as the patient often seems to be too weak to bear any allopathic drugs whatever. In cases where the patient can't swallow, some little medicine, applied to the lips, or on the tongue, is sufficient to have effect, as the action of the homœopathic powders, globules or tinctures is not required to reach the stomach. The medicines make their first impression on the nerves of the lips, tongue, and palate, with which they come in contact, and are imparted by them to the nerves in general, which are the medium by which the medicines act on the system. How is it with Allopathia? What is the taste and smell of her medicines? In most cases nauseous and disgusting; to look at them is, for *many*, enough to sicken their stomach; and when swallowed, even with the best will to keep them down, and to save the trouble of taking another dose, they are often rejected again by the stomach. In what a miserable condition do patients find themselves, who, from idiosyncrasy, cannot take any allopathic medicine whatever! Homœopathic medicines any and every body can take with a smiling countenance.

The homœopathic system is adapted for all cases of disease of body and mind,* for every age and every sex, for every constitution and every climate. The robust and the weak, the young and the aged, male and female, are benefitted by it, and in the icy regions of *Russia* Homœopathia is as successful as in the southern climate of *Italy*.

It is, of course, understood that, where the disease is itself incurable for many reasons, or from such disorganizations in the structure of some organs, which never will yield to any medical treatment, Homœopathia don't profess to overcome impossibilities. And so are hopeless cases of disease no criterion for any medical system whatever. Though, for humanity's sake, any physician, if requested, will attend the patient with the view to alleviate, even when a cure is out of the question.

Homœopathia don't pretend to be "*a cure-all*." Never will there be such a system; and human skill fails in the presence of death, not because this skill is powerless against disease, but because *death* is no *disease*; and cure is merely an expulsion of disease, with the assistance of nature, when possible.

Dr. DURINGE opposes the new school in some parts, though admits distinctly that she is entitled to a prominent rank in the department of science; that with all persons of susceptible constitutions she succeeds to admiration, and that with respect to women and children, she

* We refer to Note 26, in the Organon of Homœopathic Medicine, by S. Hahnemann, Second American from the British Translation of the Fourth German Edition, with improvements and additions from the Fifth, &c., New York, 1843., (which edition we recommend to our readers.) Farther §210—230. Treatment of Mental Diseases. For particular cases among others, Homœopathic Treatment of the *Insane*, by Dr. C. Sztaraveski, Physician to the Hospital of Gross Wardein, in Hungary. (Archiv. fur die hom. Heilkunst, Vol. xix.)

is their best protectress, and does for them what Allopathia may as well confess to be beyond her power.

J. EPPS, in his "Affections of Women," asserts: "Believing that every disease has its remedy, and that an all-wise and all-benevolent Creator has intended that man should be happy: knowing that human misery can be traced, either to the violation of the laws of the Creator, or to ignorance of these laws, and consequent inability to apply them: and convinced that, in medicine, there are laws as fixed as in the other departments of science, (a doctrine which I have taught to my medical pupils, in my public lectures, the last twelve years,) I have earnestly sought means to relieve the sufferings which the female sex endure. *Homœopathy has means to relieve these symptoms;* therefore, it takes high ground, and I have no hesitation in asserting, that hundreds, whose days are made miserable by these sufferings, can be freed from it. It is worthy of remark, that few medical men know the sufferings which are endured by women; and under the old system of medicine but little could be done for their relief."

To woman, asserts Dr. PARTRIDGE, the application of this vital law of therapeutics is peculiarly beneficial, especially in the delicate period of gestation, and on the trying occasion of child-bearing, in which natural conditions, her sufferings and danger too often result from an artificial and harsh interference.

Accurate observers affirm that offsprings from parents, who, in diseases formerly, have applied to homœopathic medicines, and lived on homœopathic regimen, are more healthy and less predisposed to sickness. What a blessing is Homœopathy to those, who, by too harsh a treatment got their constitution enfeebled! She often builds them up again, and the sufferer, instead of being destined to drag out a miserable existence to the end of his life, procures in her a benefactress, whom he regards with the sincerest feelings of gratitude! Finally,

THE EFFECT OF HOMŒOPATHIC TREATMENT IS "QUICK, MILD AND SAFE."

Some have been of the opinion that this treatment would be much more proper in chronic cases; but that is an error. Chronic cases are difficult to be treated in both systems, and require some length of time and patience to see a successful alteration; though a great part of the good name the new school received, was from treating chronic cases, more successfully than any other system;* to convince us of the celerity of the action of Homoæpathia, acute cases are best for trial, as they by a proper remedy soon show their efficacy, and it may be fairly stated, that the duration in fevers, inflammations, neu-

* Dr. NEKER, cured by Hahnemann, of a dangerous disease of the lungs, was converted to Homœopathia and became a supporter of the system. The lady of Dr. DES GUIDI practitioner of Lyons, had been for many years subject to a dangerous complaint, for which the resources of the ordinary system furnished no relief. She was brought to Italy in the hope of restoring, by means of change of air and scene, that health, which was beyond the reach of art. It is surely very singular that medical men do not entertain some slight suspicion of the im-

ralgias, and other diseases of an acute character is considerably lessened. In affections, where help must be given without delay, this system can be put to the test most surely, and where the sufferings of the sick are most severe, Homœopathia, well administered, will prove her superiority to advantage. The action of the homœopathic remedy is gentle and mild, and health is restored in most cases without any suffering from medicines. In some few cases, however, and particularly according to the doses used, a slight aggravation will take place, which will subside by itself, or may be counteracted by a proper antidote, and is commonly but the forerunner of improvement by a visible reaction. The constitution never will be injured; as a proof of this, we dare state, that patients, as soon as the disease is encountered, will rally speedily, and not feel that exhausting weakness and debility, nor the bad consequences of after diseases, which are apt to follow the depleting, tormenting and scouring method, and the use of large doses of allopathic medicines.

Some decry the use of minerals, as medicines, very much, and, we think, not without reason, when they injure the constitution of the patients; though minerals, used prudently and with understanding, are very valuable for their remedial effects. Still worse is it, says HERING, on Poisons, when some hypocritically pretend to cure all diseases by herbs or vegetable substances: for the vegetable poisons are much more deleterious than the mineral, which every physician, who has studied natural history, must know. Animal poisons again are worse than vegetable poisons. Whatever is said of the innoxious effect of vegetable medicine is nothing but deception and humbug. It is true there are some herbs which do not produce any dangerous effect, and medicines which are not injurious; but even these should not be given without due consideration, nor in large quantities for any length of time. For it is certain, that if you give the proper medicine, very little will suffice, and if you give an improper one, the larger the dose the more injurious it will prove. In large and frequently repeated doses every medicine may, therefore, be considered a poison. In Germany, more children have died of chamomile tea than of scarlet fever, and more people are, even now, killed by Peruvian bark than by the fever and ague. Formerly the cause of their perfection of their practice, when they resort to nature to cure those diseases, against which all their knowledge and all the stores at their disposal are ineffectual.

While DES GUIDI was in Italy with his wife, she had a new attack of illness worse than the first. Several brother practitioners were called, but left the patient worse than they found her. Hope had fled. One of DES GUIDI's old companions when they studied medicine in their youth, drew him aside and pressed on him a trial of the new system of Hahnemann. In a fortunate hour he listened to his friend and ere a few weeks had elapsed, Madam Des Guidi was rescued from the brink of the grave and restored to a state of health which she had not known for many years. That was enough for the husband to proceed to Naples, to study for three years under Dr. HORATIU, Homeœopathia, after which time he returned to Lyons and was a successful propagator of that system.

death was not known, and the thing was called by a different name. Of a hundred persons who have died of dropsy, eighty, at least, have been made dropsical by the irrational administering of drugs. Ask only how often such persons have been bled, or what medicine they have swallowed, such as mercury, peruvian bark, quinine, cathartics, sulphur or saltpeter, laudanum, or other narcotics, and you will see how the dropsy originated.

Peruvian bark or quinine, is a medicine, which next to opium and mercury, most frequently undermines the constitution, and occasions incurable diseases. Should the patient escape death; he will be troubled for years by the effects of bark. It is more difficult to expel quinine from the system than mercury; and he who pretends that this can be effected by cathartics is utterly ignorant of physic. It enters the blood and all the fluids, and no purging in the world will remove it, but will cause the loss of still more fluids.

Sulphur is as bad as mercury, and the tedious complaints which it produces are as difficult to cure.

Mercury is the universal elixir of the quacks in all diseases, who, while they pretend to restore their patients to health, destroy their constitution. They administer it, as calomel, in powders, or dissolved as corrosive sublimate, or in pills, &c.—those abominable blue pills. Applied externally or internally, it is always equally destructive. Frequently they impose upon the people by telling them that the mercury can be expelled again by taking aperient medicines after it. Such a language in the mouth of a physician is the most convincing proof of ignorance or baseness. For, supposing that it was as easy to remove the calomel again as it was to give it to swallow, the effect produced upon the body must remain notwithstanding; just as if you were to drive a nail into a man's leg, and then pull it out again; certainly the whole will remain; it will heal after awhile, but this will require time and a rational mode of treatment, or the consequence may be very serious. To give aperient medicine for the effects of mercury, is about as sensible as if I were to poke a wooden peg into the wound made by the nail, and imagine it was all right then. Prepared mercury, however, cannot be expelled so easily again, and least of all by purgations. It immediately penetrates every part of the system, the fluids, the glands, and even the bones. This is the reason that the slow poisoning by mercurial medicines is far more difficult to cure than any natural disease; it always requires much time, and in many cases mitigation of the sufferings is all that art can effect for the patient.

Iron is a poison, as well as all the other metals, only it does not kill quite so rapidly. A proof of this assertion is in the springs, which contain iron, and wherein rust is formed; neither man nor beast thrives upon this water.

He who has already taken different medicines, and has become worse and worse, will do well to lay aside all kinds of medicine, no matter what they are called; and should his health not improve by itself, let him apply to a homœopathic physician, but not expect miracles.

In most cases it is very difficult to destroy the effects of the former medicines. Sometimes it takes a year, and only then does it begin to improve quickly and permanently; unless the patient has an invisible disease which neither the old nor the new method can cure. Pity! the physician should violate the laws of nature, and the patient have to suffer for it. And the same writer continues:

The worst, the most injurious of all poisons, are those abominable PANACEAS, which, under numerous enticing names, are palmed upon the public. No physician will deny that sometimes cures have been performed by them; yet every one knows how seldom this has happened. No medicine will do good unless properly applied; where this is not the case, and in the manner in which these things are generally prepared, they cannot be otherwise than injurious. From the manner in which Panaceas and other nostrums are extolled and recommended, it is apparent that those who offer them for sale are only anxious to find purchasers. Thus pulmonary consumption is no fixed disease, against which a specific can be recommended. It is so very different, and in almost every patient of a peculiar kind, that great reflection and careful consideration is necessary to discover its nature. The remedies must be adapted to the peculiarities of the disease. One and the same medicine cannot possibly answer in all cases. You cannot always rely upon the certificates which accompany the recommendations of these universal medicines. A case often appears worse than it actually is, and even medical men may be deceived; at the same time a trifling medicine, sometimes simply cold water, will cure it.

The great number of universal medicines we see extolled as specifics against various diseases, does certainly not appear creditable to the inhabitants of this country. It proves the ignorance and credulity of the purchasers.

He who buys and uses such things may be compared to him who buys a lottery ticket. The ticket venders are the only persons certain of a large profit. As many blanks as are in a lottery, so many blanks are there in these universal medicines; and the number of prizes in the one and of cures in the other are about equal. No man of sense will venture in a lottery, if he cannot spare the money which, in all probability, will be lost. But he who ventures in a medical lottery, not only loses his money, but, if he does not get a prize, receives certain injury, rendering his case worse, more obstinate and more difficult to cure. When a physician prescribes medicine for you, you know at least what you get, and should it prove injurious, may at least be counteracted; if you have not taken too much medicine, or persisted in the use of it for too great a length of time, it is always possible to make good the injury that has been done. But with those unknown universal medicines it is impossible; we do not know what we are to treat. Whoever relies upon the impudent assertion that nothing injurious is contained in these nostrums, must be credulous indeed. We have mentioned already, in our preceding pages, that the poison from many plants is far more virulent than that from minerals.

Many of these universal medicines contain, also, mineral poison. For instance, the fever drops (diaphoretic tincture) contain arsenic; the imperial pills, mercury; and so with many others. Many things of this kind are sold at an enormous price, and the ingredients of which they consist may be had in every apothecary's shop for a tenth part of their cost; for instance, Harlæm oil is nothing but a combination of sulphur with oil, and the value of a vial is less than half a cent. So it is with all others.

There is not a single one of these pretended secret medicines that a real physician might not have discovered and made known. A physician can apply every medicine in its proper place; the vender of nostrums cannot—his object is to make money; whether his medicine kills or cures is a secondary consideration."

In the so much feared epidemics Homœopathia preserves her credit, particularly by acting quick, and saving thousands from a premature grave. During their prevalence the mortality has been conspicuously less by patients who have been treated homœopathically.

Dr. RUSH says: "There are tests for all things. A dangerous epidemic shows the difference between the strong and the weak—the candid and the crafty, among physicians. It is equally true that the same occasion displays, even to the common observer, the real condition of their art: whether its precepts are exact or indefinite, and its practice consistent or contradictory. Upon these points, and bearing in mind that we have now in medicine the recorded science and practice of more than two thousand years, let the reader refer to the proceedings of the medical profession during the prevalence of the so-called Asiatic Cholera, and he will find their history every where exhibiting an extraordinary picture of prefatory panic, vulgar wonder, doubt, ignorance, obtrusive vanity, plans for profit and popularity, fatal blunders, distracting contradictions and egregious opinions—of twenty confounding doctors called in consultation, to mar the sagacious activity of one,—of ten thousand books upon the subject with still an unsatisfied call for more,—of experience fairly frightened out of all its former convictions, and of costly missions after moonshine, returning only with clouds. Now I do assert, that no art which has a sufficiency of truth, and the least logical precision, can ever wear a face so mournfully grotesque as this. In most of the transactions of men, there is something like mutual understanding and collective agreement on some points at least; but the history of the Cholera, summed up

part of page missing

Such is the melancholy picture drawn by the author of "The Philosophy of the Human Voice." How loud sounds this again for reform in medicine!—We can refer to the official reports of homœopathic treatment of Cholera Asiatica in private practice and in hospitals, the most splendid success is every where recorded. We shall insert here an extract from a letter of Madame LYOFF, to her father, Admiral MORDVINOW, dated

"Government of Saratow, Russia, Aug. 6th, 1831.

"The dreadful Cholera broke out last month in our own village and its vicinity with the greatest fury. My husband was the first person attacked, but thanks to Homœopathia, was cured in a few days. From a desire to relieve the sufferings of humanity, he visited all the places in the neighborhood, wherever the disease raged the most; administered the remedies; instructed the priests and the elders in the use of them; was whole weeks thus employed, while I remained at home occupied with the preparation of homœopathic powders. Four hundred cholera patients saved and restored to perfect health was the gratifying reward of his zeal, and the triumphant result of homœopathic doses, liberally distributed to all who applied for them. We are all now so well convinced of the miraculous power of this system, that we cannot sufficiently deplore the ignorance that *cannot*, and still more the obstinate prejudice that *will not* invoke its aid, and thereby rescue relatives and friends from certain death. The Asiatic Cholera preceded by terror, ushered in by danger, and followed by desolation, comes now, remains and departs a harmless thing. Its cure is in reality easier than that of a fever. Multiplied experiments and consequent confidence in homœopathic treatment have divested it of its appalling attributes, by subjecting it entirely to the skill of man. We had fifty patients in our own village, and not *one* of them died. On the estate of my sister-in-law, there were likewise a good many cases, but no deaths. There is also an abundance of reason to believe, that the fatal termination of disease, wherever it occurred, was occasioned altogether by neglect, want of necessary precaution, and deviation from the rules of regimen, prescribed by Homœopathia. All the sick who took medicine in strict conformity to the rules, were saved, although some of them were already in a state of collapse, which apparently precluded all hope." See the documents given in the ADMIRAL's work, "*A Glance at Homœopathia.*"

part of page missing

part of page missing

who was rather too far advanced in years. Did Homœopathy then appear an insane phantom too, when 179 out of 180 patients, in malignant typhus fever, were cured? Was the system an insane phantom to the patients and their friends and relations? Would any physician who cures 179 out of 180 in typhus, call the system, he cured by, an insane phantom? If that should be the case, then we have to change the language and call the treatment under which the most typhus patients die, *a most sane and brilliant phenomenon!* A person, when he or his relations are informed that he is laboring under typhus fever, and being under *allopathic* or *old-school* treatment, will, generally, act wisely to make his last will; to send for his friends and his minister, and to prepare for his end—the cold and gloomy grave, and for eternity!

Belladonna being a preventive in epidemics of Scarlet fever, was first noticed by S. HAHNEMANN; and the successful treatment of scarlatina is well known wherever the practice of Homœopathy is established. And how much she, in the common diseases of sick headache, dyspepsia, costiveness, piles, &c., is able to perform, or in the so called affections of being bilious or nervous, the patients cured of it by her can give personal testimony. The eastern and western cities of this Union will bring living witnesses in favor of homeopathic treatment by *thousands*; and the same results are reported from Great Britain, Russia, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, &c.

part of page missing

... medicinal substances. The use
bacco, aromatic oils and perfumeries, smelling bottles, sweet bags, hartshorn, musk, amber, camphor, medicinal tooth-powders, aromatic soaps and pastes, &c., are strictly forbidden as containing medicinal properties, and counteracting the effect of homeopathic medicines. In printed directions, which will be handed to patients, they receive details more fully.

Homœopathia promotes temperance and abstinence from customs and habits which, at length, prove injurious to the most of individuals; and be it recollected, that gluttony, as well as tippling, as infringements of the law of nature, will be followed by sufferings.

Any physician who has ever been known as a successful practitioner, had to put his patients under a well regulated and strict diet. Patients who rather prefer to satisfy their own notions, or labor under the self-conceit of knowing better, would do far better too, not to call for medical assistance. But, again, diet alone will not cure inveterate chronic diseases or dyocrasies of a specific character,* nor acute and

*Dr. CURIE, "on Diet:" declares: By the homœopathic practice we have cured cases of epilepsy, acute and chronic pneumonia, pleurisy, phthisis, cancerous and scirrhous metritis, cancer and scirrhous of the breast, amaurosis, scrofulous disorganisation, deafness, (also with dumbness,) dropsy, cataract, croup, gastro-enteritis, with disorganization, &c. &c., all of them inveterate and

dangerous maladies, whose course is so speedy, that regimen has no time to show any effect. Patients who are not cured, after having been under homeopathic treatment, have in most cases to blame themselves particularly in old or chronic, and formerly mal-treated, diseases, for an over hasty discontinuance of medical attendance—on their own account—not seeing their sanguine hopes very soon fulfilled, and not considering in reason that morbid derangements, which have developed themselves in the course of years and years, cannot be altogether relieved or cured in so many days or weeks; or, by wilfully or unconsciously disobeying rules and directions, which, for establishing a cure by medicine, are a “conditio sine qua non.” A physician has, for his part, to treat the patient according to science, but he cannot be expected to nurse the sick, who have to take care of themselves, and will suffer for imprudence or neglect. Unjust would it be if persons, who require a rational treatment for some time, would take only a few times some homœopathic medicines, then quit and say, that they have been under treatment, and have given the system a trial, without coming up to rules. Such persons we don't acknowledge as our patients, and their statements have to be considered at war with truth.

For recovery, proper ventilation and pure air in the sick-room are of the highest importance. A sick-chamber ought to be kept quiet, and every thing ought to be arranged to comfort the patient and to promote his convenience. It is an abominable practice to use a sick-chamber as a new's room, as a kitchen, or to have it crowded with children or visitors. One or two persons are, in common cases, enough to wait on the sick; the rest of the family ought to be in the parlor or in the nursery. It is unbecoming for any visitor to enter a sick-room without special permission, and not the curiosity of the neighbor or friend, to see the sick, has to be satisfied; but the wish of the patient, in conformity with the order of the attending physician. A message to the family, to inquire how the patient gets along, shows proper attention, and will answer in many cases. Untimely politeness, and the fear of hurting the feelings of others by a refusal of admission, has, in many instances, turned out to the greatest disadvantage of the sufferer. Every visitor in the sick-room usually directs some questions even to the *feeble* patient, and if many are calling, it must be a perfect annoyance and even danger to him, whom we have no right to disturb at all; some coming from out doors, and carrying along a current of cold air within their clothes, step right up to the patient's couch to shake hands with him, who perhaps is in a salutary perspiration, which, by

deemed incurable. (All these diseases have been cured at the Hospital, Hanover Square, London, where the details of the cases, together with the addresses of the patients, are open to all enquirers. Similar cures are to be met with in every institution conducted upon homeopathic principles, and in private practice.) If these effects are attributed to diet alone, the correctness of the allegation may very easily be tested. Let the public and the profession try the effect of the diet, and if it can be proved that, under its sole influence, serious disorganization can be cured, we shall very willingly acknowledge its influence, and confess our error.

such an exposure, might be checked, and cause perhaps a fatal result. Visitors, in cold or damp weather, ought to warm themselves before they approach the sick.

Company makes the room noisy and contaminates the air of it. Light and temperature of the chamber ought to be regulated according to the physician's direction; so ablutions, bathing, frictions, exercise, amusements, when practicable; repose and sleep. Violent emotions, excitements and passions impede the progress of the cure very much or annihilate its possibility altogether. To the lady of the house, who usually oversees the sick-room we would recommend the perusal of the chapter "NURSING THE SICK" in the Young Ladies' Friend, by Mrs. JOHN FARRAR. Let every patient impress upon his mind that he has to be quite as careful when entering the state of convalescence as when he has been very ill. Many lingering and incurable diseases have originated by careless exposure and by too much indulgence. How many fail to observe this very important rule, and how many are paid for it by an unwelcome relapse, and by great and long sufferings! When will we learn from the sad experience of others?

Finally we have to make one remark more. Experience teaches that there are a great many busy-bodies, who, when visiting the sick, always have to recommend such and such things as very serviceable indeed, even at a time, when a physician already has been called for attendance. I wish every patient had courage enough to thank such persons politely, and no matter who it is, to inform them, that he has an attending physician already, who, when in need of counsel, certainly will call whom he thinks proper for it. The intention of the visitor is good, but the sick is not benefitted by it.

Before a physician is called in, of course, the sick may do as they please. Though intelligent persons will find it most proper to call on their physician from the very onset of the disease; and it ought to be left altogether to him to see the patient and to prescribe for him whenever he finds it necessary.

He who takes a true and deep interest in the patient will never interfere with his treatment after he is under the charge of a physician. The recommendation even of domestic means and things which seem to be innocuous by themselves, used without the Doctor's knowledge and approval, may do a great deal of harm, and sometimes destroy the effect of his medical treatment. In the highest sense find the words here applicable: "*Mind your own Business.*" Consider one moment, "how *unjust* it is" for third persons to interfere—and the attending physician to bear the responsibility; reflect that not only his character, as a physician, is at stake but the health and life of the patient himself. Persons under homeopathic treatment ought always be seen by the physician himself—when possible, as medicines have in particular to be adapted but to the *present* state of the patient and the disease, which to represent correctly and thoroughly third persons are seldom able to do. The physician has to individualize in each particular case at each time of making a prescription. Homeopathic medicines, if no

Missing pages 33-40

part of page missing

Professor *James McNaughton*, late President of the New York State Medical Society, in his annual address alludes to Homœopathy: "Generally speaking they have at once pronounced the whole subject absurd,—a delusion,—or a gross imposition upon public credulity. Now is this the proper mode of treating it? Is it philosophical to call anything absurd, professed to be founded on observation and experiment? If it be false, it should be proved to be so, by showing that facts do not warrant the premises, or the deductions drawn from them. It is possible, that the homœopathic reasoning may be erroneous,—it is possible that the medicines may act as specifics, like the vaccine virus, and that the mode of action may be altogether inexplicable, in the present state of our knowledge. We are therefore more interested in determining the correctness of

part of page missing

part of page missing

reached its destination. — — — — —
found respect, your disciple and obedient servant.

JOHN F. GRAY, M. D.

New York, April 6th, 1833.

THE DIPLOMA.

SOCIETAS MEDICA CIVITATIS NOVI EBORACI ATQUE COMITATUS,
OMNIBUS HAS LITERAS PERLECTURIS, SALUTEM.

Virum Probum et Ornatisimum Dominum Samuelem Hahnemann,
Auctorem Homœopathiæ, quem fama promit scientiarum medicinac
et chirurgiae cultorem, liberalium honoribus artium proiectum, placuit
nobis Praesidi caeterisque Sociis hujusce Comitatus Concil. Med.
Facultatis, Socium constituere Honorarium; atque auctoritatem ei

part of page missing

AND alike will be the language of each of the two thousand homœopathic physicians spread over the different countries of our globe, not a single one of whom has ever returned to the old practice. There must be some truth in Homœopathia. Yes, so much that he who has examined her strictly and honestly will do such homage to her, as to leave her no more. Physicians, who desire to be confirmed enemies to the new system, will do best never to examine into it; but close their eyes, even though it should be clear day all around them, for fear the least ray of light might hurt them. And so it happens that those who know the least about it, cry the loudest against the reform.

When Hahnemann published first his opinions in medical journals the world was not agitated, nor a venomous opposition raised against him until the time at which his principles gained public ground. Old laws which subjected the preparation of medicines, as a particular business, to examined apothecaries, and forbid it to the physician to prescribe *and* make up the medicine himself, were brought to light again, and used against Hahnemann. The law is not a bad one, that every prescription of the physicians has to be made up by a *duly* examined apothecaries—and not less were the drug-stores every year submitted to a rigid examination, to be assured, that the receipts were prepared from the purest and best kind of medicines. In the eastern cities here, too, the prescriptions of most all regular physicians are sent to the Apothecary to be made up, and it is a very laudable custom, and ought to be so in every place, as it will prevent many abuses in practice. A physician once bought a large quantity of powdered rhubarb, at a public sale, for a very low price, and told me afterwards that he would now feed all his patients on rhubarb, till it would be used up. What can be expected from such and similar practice? But he could not have done so, if he had to send his prescriptions to the drug-store. It soon would be known that he uses *one* medicine in all diseases. And not much better is the practice to stuff the patient one day with pills and the next with tartar and ipecac: and to repeat that till the patient is either tired of it, and refusing to swallow any more; or is worn out and dies, or makes a lucky escape and gets well in spite of drugs and doctor. The law brought against Hahnemann could not be strictly applied to his new system, as the apothecaries did not know how to prepare the homœopathic medicines, and the physician had to make them up himself to be sure of their purity and correct mode of preparation. Still the law was kept in force, though afterwards repealed in some parts; and in some parts apothecaries were authorized to prepare for the use of physicians homœopathic medicines according to rules. Physicians, now, aroused from all sides against the new doctrine, as a heresy, but the

part of page missing

new system, and partly in ~~many~~ ^{now} ~~of~~ ⁱⁿ ~~them~~ with Homœopathia. The possession of homœopathic books and homœopathic medicines do not make a Homœopathist, even of a professor of a medical college. As proof we make reference to the trials made by Prof. ANDRAL, of Paris, who for the just mentioned reasons did not succeed, and the very same patients which he could not cure by his homœopathic treatment, were afterwards cured by a homœopathic practitioner at Paris, who did *understand, how to apply* the remedies according to the rule "*similia similibus curantur.*" Administering homœopathic medicines according to allopathic principles will never do, and the result necessarily must be a failure, as their principles are entirely different.

The letter of the Academy, who made report about the trials of ANDRAL, may be read as CROSERIO* commented upon them:

"Monsieur le Ministre: We know that homœopathic medicine makes proselytes in Germany, Russia, Italy, and we see that it begins to spread over France, and that even patients treated in vain by ourselves, have been cured by Homœopathia, this doctrine, contrary to what has been communicated to us by our masters, is very difficult and abstract; but as the only means of convincing ourselves of its merits, would be to make experiments in suitable hospitals, we beg of you, Monsieur le Ministre, to deny us these means of enlightening ourselves, in order to prevent its spreading, or at least to retard its propagation during our life-time, so that we may quietly enjoy our places, without being obliged to have recourse to such a painful labor," &c.

The homœopathic practice is not taken up so easily, it requires even of an allopathic practitioner the profound study of years to be quite familiar with it, and that, indeed, causes labor. Allopathists, who have practised for a long time in the old system, hate to undertake such troublesome studies, except they should be able to fortify their mind with an unyielding perseverance. But where is the man, says LOCKE, who would be induced by better reasons, suddenly to lay aside his old opinions, his acquirements, the fruits of a long and laborious life, and be persuaded to adopt ideas entirely new. The most conclusive and just reasoning will no more convince him, than the wind could induce the traveller (in the fable) to quit his cloak; and so it is with the majority of allopathists; but be it understood, that none of them, can ever have an opinion on Homœopathia on which the public may depend, if they pass over the homœopathic system and few of its books as people do over the novels of the day. What can they know

*Vide CROSERIO, translated by Neidhard.

by a mere slight reading of a system, which is founded on *experience*, and can be tested no otherwise than by *experience* again. We know allopathic physicians of high standing, who once, with the spirit of a "Saul," opposed the new doctrine, but while persecuting it, became *conscience-struck*, investigated and were converted.

"Respecting the opposition, we may say truly, the dishonorable and dishonest opposition, as remarks KRTČEŇ, which the subject has met with, he would wish to say but little; no one can be much surprised at it. If we only look through the annals of our race, we shall find that such has been the case regarding all discoveries, and what is very singular, the more veritable and useful, so much the more violent! Without going into detail, we would merely refer to the motion of the earth by *Galileo*, the circulation of the blood by *Harvey*,* vaccination by *Jenner*, and the powers of steam by *Fulton*. To refer more particularly to the case of *Harvey*; we there have quite sufficient evidence of the vindictiveness of the profession in any case, which may militate against the doctrines of the school for the time being, and not accord with the "*verba magistri*," the opinions of those who, somehow or other, are called to be professors of the art, though not always masters of it. Physicians have condemned the subject without a trial, from prejudice alone. Is this just; is it honorable; is it honest? No one who is just and honorable and honest, can answer in the affirmative. We would ask the simple question how any one *knows* that ipecacuanha vomits, or rhubarb purges? Is it by reading or looking at the substances? All the books ever written on *materia medica* might be read, and all the substances at the druggist's shop be looked at for years, and no one could be perfectly assured that these substances would produce the effects on the human organism ascribed to them; they believe they produce those effects, because their teachers tell them so; they know nothing of it themselves, before experience teaches to a certainty in their own persons, or in the persons of others. Now homœopathic physicians tell them on the same principle of expecting to be believed; that such and such homœopathic medicines produce such and such effects. But what is the consequence? Do they believe what is told them? No: they say at once, it is impossible, it is false; ("an insane phantom,") it is a humbug, and this is said, too, *without* a trial of the medicines. A truly just and honest judgment indeed! Were all judgments based on such principles we should, in truth, be in a sorry plight. Reference is made by our opponents to the trial of the medicines by ANDRAL, at Paris, a few years since. Homœopaths have always denied the fairness of that trial; it was unjust,

* Dr. VANDERBURG says: When we consider the determined opposition, maintained with virulence for fifty years, against *Harvey's* discovery of the circulation of the blood, I do not know, that we should be so much surprised at what we meet with: for if my memory serves me, medical students, in order to obtain their diplomas, were compelled, forty years after this great discovery, to swear that they would not believe the *heresy*—and now the professors of medicine *please* to call it, a *brilliant discovery*!

dishonorable and prejudiced, got up for the express purpose of attempting to put down Homœopathia, but fortunately it was so prejudiced and barefaced that no really reflecting physician could put the least confidence in the so-called results; and worse than all, it was based on ignorance, for can it be supposed that even ANDRAL, with his truly giant and philosophic mind, could be able, with a little light reading, snatched up during the intervals of an arduous allopathic practice—could it be possible that he could appreciate and calculate the effects of homœopathic medicines on disease, and much less be able to classify the symptoms and give the correct remedy? There is contradiction on the very face of it. Homœopathic practice is not so plain and child-like, and he who comes to the practice of it with such views, must necessarily fail." Some have written very wittily against Homœopathia. Witticism, though it is often as far from sound sense as semblance from reality, and if it should ever be as brilliant, as the light of a shooting star—it vanishes like it, and cannot be confounded with truth, which, like a solar-light, is *eternal*, and so is the homœopathic law, as a *law of nature* which has existed before Hippocrates and Hahnemann, immutable.

Homœopathia has advanced rapidly in France and elsewhere, where it has been introduced and duly examined,* so much so, that different Governments have been induced to doubt the former trials as correct, and hospitals, clinics and professorships have so far, in accordance with the favorable public opinion of the new system, been erected in numbers; and individuals from the humblest walk in life up to those who are called *first* in society—the *noblesse*, princess and kings apply for the benefits of Homœopathia. We give the following list as proof, from Dr. HULL's *Everest* which we have quoted before:

HOMŒOPATHIC COURT-PHYSICIANS.

Many physicians and surgeons in Europe, whose success in the practice of the healing art through the agency of Homœopathia has been undeniable, have been rewarded by places of honor, which allo-

*Dr. ROSENSTEIN, in his *Theory and Practice of Homœopathia*, Louisville, 1840, inserts a letter of Dr. CROSERIO, at Paris, to Dr. C. NEIDHARD, at Philadelphia, of which we extract the following: "In a country like yours, dear sir, where the press is free, the heads open and the hearts warm for every improvement, and the purses full, every thing may be accomplished by those who follow a noble design. I venture to assert that in all Europe individual generosity has not done as much for beneficial and common purposes, as it has done in the United States during the last twenty-five years. The people of the United States have only to know the great benefit of Homœopathia, and they will bestow hundreds of thousands on homœopathic institutions. And have you attempted, dear sir, to inform your Temperance Societies of the powerful support their cause may derive from Homœopathia? And have you informed the slaveholders of the South how many lives will be saved and how quickly health is restored by our treatment? Aye, even slavery will support your cause. I am much inclined to believe, that a medical reform in the United States of America, if once commenced on a large scale, (that is to say, after a sufficient number of buyers of homœopathic works has been found, which is the principle requisite of all scientific progress on a national scale) will be much more rapid and thorough going, than in any European country, Germany not excepted.

pathic practitioners have always struggled to secure. From such we are enabled to record:

Dr. Aegidi, late physician to Princess Frederica of Prussia; Dr. Kurtz, physician to the Duchess of Anhalt-Dessau; Dr. Cramer, of Carlsruhe, physician to the Grand Duke Charles; Dr. Romani, physician to the Queen Dowager of Naples; Dr. Necker, late physician to the Baron von Koller, Intendant General of the Austrian Army; Dr. Smith, physician to the Duchess of Lucca; Dr. Marrenzeller, of Vieuna, physician to Prince Metternich and his family; Dr. Schonberg, late physician to the Baron von Koller; Dr. Vorbrod, of Coburg, surgeon to the Duke of Saxe-Coburg; Dr. Staelroth, physician to Count Berstel, commander-in-chief of the Prussian Forces of the Rhine; Dr. Griesselich, surgeon to the Grand Duke of Baden; Altmuller, surgeon to the Duke of Hesse-Cassel; Dr. Luber, of Koningsbruck, physician to the Count of Holberg and Hohenthal; Dr. Horatiis, president of the Academy of Medicine (allopathic) was selected physician to Francis I. the late King of Naples; Dr. Staaf, was called to attend the Dowager Queen of England; but the important position he holds in Germany compelled him to decline the honor; Dr. Quin, late physician to the King of Belgium; Dr. Backhausen, of Dusseldorf, physician to Princess Frederica of Prussia; Dr. Weber, physician to the Duke of Solms and Hoheu-Lich; Dr. Reubel, physician to Count Wallenstein, Minister of Internal Affairs, Bavaria; Dr. Anton Schmidt, physician to Ferdinand, Crown Prince of Lucca; Dr. Hesse, physician to Count Schionberg; Dr. Baudis, physician to Count Veezay.

For further high appointments of homœopathic practitioners refer to the above named book. Facts speak louder than words, and one single fact is worth more than a ship-load of proofs *a priori*, hypotheses, &c.

Professorships of Homœopathia are erected at Heidelberg, Vienna, Erlangen, Munich, Jena, Leipzig, Freyburg, Zurich, Giessen, Berlin, &c. In the British Journal of Homœopathia, by the Drs. Drysdale, Russel and Black, No. II, 1843, we read of the Progress of Homœopathia in Spain, from a letter of Dr. Roland of Madrid, to Dr. Molin of Paris: the first convert was an old physician, who embraced it with zeal and thankfulness; and what is more singular, the *Academy of Medicine*, in Seville, unlike any other medical corporation in Europe, have *fostered* the new doctrine, caused *Hahnemann's* work to be translated at their expense and extended their support to the homœopathic Journal which has recently been established in Spain.

A section of the civil hospital of *Toro*, in *Spain*, has been appropriated to the treatment of the sick on the homœopathic method by *Professor Coll*. The treatment of Dr. Coll was triumphant although based on this hard condition, that the invalids were declared *incurable* by the other (allopathic) Professors of the Hospital, and whom he would not allow to be dismissed from the establishment until they were again reviewed by those Professors, and declared to be veritably *cured*, by their own certificate. Homœopathic *Dispensaries* are at Palermo, Paris, London, Edinburg, Liverpool, Glasgow, New York, &c. A thousand works on Homœopathia have been issued from the press, and have appeared more or less in six different languages and between thirty and forty journals are in circulation.

Making a short *resumé*, the reader will recollect the declarations of *GIRTNANER* and *HOFFMANN*, from Germany; *CABANIS* and *MAGENDIE* from France; *PEREIRA* from Italy; *PARIS* and *ABERCROMBIE* from Great

Britain; JOHN MASON GOOD, S. JACKSON and J. RUSH from America; regarding the uncertainty and insufficiency of the state of medical science and the necessity for reform; then the appearance of SAMUEL HAHNEMANN in undertaking and establishing such a reform in medicine, upon a foundation of reason and experience, whose principles had been approved of by his contemporaries and his predecessors, as HIPPOCRATES, B. VALENTINUS, PARACELSUS, STAHL, HALLER, HUNTER, SYDENHAM, BLEEL, KENTISH. In the practical review you have noticed the striking contrast of both systems, the practical advantages of Homœopathia by her simplicity, direct treatment, smallness of doses, the pleasant taste of her medicines, their general applicability, their quick, mild and safe effect, &c., with different references to BICHAT, PEREIRA, WOOD and BACHE, KITCHEN, EUSTACHIEVE, SPERANZA, CROSERIO, BRUCHHAUSEN, ESCHENMAYER, DURINGE, HERING, EPPS, PARTRIDGE, ELLIOTS, BRERA, BRENFLECK, RUSH. Farther remind the *Reputation* of SAMUEL HAHNEMANN, and *his system at home and abroad*, the testimony given in *favor* of it by HUFELAND, KOPP, BROUSSAIS, BRERA, MILLENGREN, V. MOTT, MCNAUGHTON, GRAY, and the *New York State Medical Society*; the confessions of SCHULER, MUHLENBEIN, CROSERIO, KITCHEN and HULL; the quotations from Rev. EVEREST by HULL, with GRAY's essay relating the *appointments of Homœopathists to Court-Physicians*; the erection of *Professorships* at some of the *first medical colleges in Austria, Bavaria, Saxony, Switzerland, Prussia, Spain, &c.*, of *homœopathic hospitals and dispensaries in France, Hungary, Great Britain, Sicilia, Bohemia*, and in some of the just before-named States; the *journals and literature of Homœopathia*, her *progress in Europe and America*.

Taking all this in *due* consideration, how can Dr. LAWSON be justified to call *Homœopathia an iusane phantom?* Does not the very expression seem to indicate that he has been swept away by a current of prejudiced passion? Has the English language no other words to express, before a respectable public audience, an aversion to one system and a predilection for another; or is the Professor of a medical college compelled to use such unbecoming terms to enhance the value of his opinion? We know the opinion of a Professor to another medical institution given in an introductory lecture, about a year ago, who though he had shown his fancy for allopathia strong enough, addressed the medical students regarding Homœopathia about in the following words: "Gentlemen, examine the system for yourselves; if you find any thing good in it, assume it, if you do not, lay it aside." Which is the most proper mode for a medical teacher, to encourage young gentlemen, engaged in the study of medicine, to investigation and self-examination, to use their own judgment and to decide for themselves according to knowledge, experience and consciousness; or to suppress inquiry in a case of such vital importance in pre-occupying their minds by the before mentioned most gratuitous and final sentence of "insanity?" How undignified appears intolerance which intends to trample down every idea, opinion, principle, truth—not con-

ceived nor understood? To judge in matters of science a scholar is required, who by profound knowledge is completely qualified, to decide on arguments and facts, and will do it with a mind free from the mists of prejudice or intolerance; or where knowledge is lacking, with the frank and open sincerity of an acknowledgment of it, so that the public shall be able to form an accurate idea of its merits.

Away with individual opinions which are based on want of information, on false self-esteem, petty interest, or on a mere spirit of opposition;—*truth* is required and “the *interests of humanity command it,*” The age where the authority of a teacher was held up for exclusive truth has gone by, and Dr. Lawson has to expect, that his opinion on Homœopathy will be taken for just what it is worth.

Hahnemann affirms: “I speak from experience” and with him every homœopathic physician. Can the learned Professor say with truth in reference to his opinion that Homœopathia is an insane phantom? Let us have the proofs. Dr. Lawson will please to inform homœopathic societies, professors, physicians, and the friends of Homœopathia in general, about his theoretical knowledge of that system, and not less of his practical experience. Where are the patients he treated homœopathically, of what sex, age, temperament, constitution, &c., what were the symptoms of their disease, how has he prescribed, what medicine, what doses, what trituration, mother-tincture, or attenuation, at what time, repeated, or not, and how often, in what relationship have the medicines followed, how long has each patient been under treatment, and what was the result of it in each particular case?

Answer these questions honestly, my dear sir!—give your response on them in particular; or your silence shall decide.

If Dr. *Lawson* shall prove to have tested Homœopathia sufficiently by experience, we shall lay the evidences furnished before a Homœopathic Society for the sake of an arbitration, to have it decided if the patients have been treated in accordance with the homœopathic doctrine and practice, or not.

Every medical student and every physician ought to study and examine impartially the new system, and all who have done so, have become either friends or converts to it. May they read with attention the *Materia Medica*, edited by Dr. A. NOACK, and Dr. C. F. TRINKS, the best work lately issued, and they will see proved by the highest evidence in the parallels of the Clinics of both schools under the article of each medicine, how much the old school of medicine, where she administered remedies most successful, did homage to the principles “*similia similibus curantur.*” Indeed, by studying Homœopathia, Allopathists will become able to form a correct opinion about her, and having gained so much, their antipathy towards the reformed, or homœopathic system of medicine will cease. The principles of it are no nostrum. Samuel Hahnemann published his discoveries, the principles of his system, and the medicines to be administered, that every body should know and understand it. There is no secrecy, no mystery about it, except that the knowledge of

it cannot be got as a revelation, when asleep, or dreaming, nor while talking nonsense. Whoever is willing to spend time and labor, and to buy the necessary books, has access to it. But how can physicians and other persons, who know nothing about the reformed system, speak against it? Let themselves seek first information before they begin to instruct others.

Homeopathia has nothing to fear and maintains her ground. Her strongest hold consists in the truth of her fundamental law and in the undeniable blessings she has bestowed already on thousands and tens of thousands of individuals who are living testimonies in her favor. The friends and patrons of the new doctrine, well acquainted with it from many a trial they had in their own families, or witnessed them among relatives and neighbors, feel assured that by applying for homœopathic treatment save themselves pains, time of sickness and expenses, and what is much more, constitution and life to a certain degree.

"The community at large," remarks BRYANT, "however ignorant of medicine, must necessarily be the arbiters between the different schools. Other umpires there are none. It is their own health and safety which are concerned, and they have a right to decide with whom these shall be entrusted; and with the results of the different modes of medical practice before them, the means of forming a just and impartial judgment are in their power. The members of the homeopathic society merely exercise the right of making this decision for themselves. Our association is formed, not for the sake of making doctors of the members, but for the sake of extending the knowledge of what they deem an important discovery, the merits of which they infer from what they have seen of its results. They wish to secure to it a fair and intelligent examination on the part of the public; they perceive that its principles and methods are little understood, and are made the subject of frequent ridicule, and they are sensible that nothing so effectually hinders impartial examination, as derision. Appeal to the pride of him, whom you wish to dissuade from inquiry, tell him that the notions you oppose are so silly, that it is unworthy of a man of sense like him, who will perceive their absurdity at a glance, to waste his time in looking at the evidence by which they are supported, and if he be a weak-minded or foolishly-sensitive person, you will probably have gained your point. You will have engaged on your side, his self-love, his wish to stand well with others, his fear of being laughed at, and with these powerful auxiliaries, you need not apprehend much from his mere love of investigation."

In conclusion, whoever is not satisfied with the many proofs already given, would not believe if I should add volumes to volumes; but "those who think that their caprice may with impunity be indulged, in matters of such vast magnitude, ought to be reminded of the remark of *Ancillon*, that, nobody has a right to disturb, to paralyze, to impede, the intellectual march of mankind. Happily, if any one should feel disposed to do so, his malignity would at length

be powerless. The feeble arm of man cannot long counteract the laws of nature; nor overthrow the order of the universe. Man may effect much, if he confines himself to its eternal track; but if he endeavors to give it a retrograde motion, he is seized, hurried away and crushed by the vast wheel of time."

Notwithstanding the former opposition to Homœopathia in the East, this system has made rapid progress there, and particularly so in the State of New-York and Pennsylvania; for which the community, among others, is indebted to the untiring zeal and high-minded devotedness to that system, by many Physicians of the City and State of New York and the City of Philadelphia, and in no small measure to the former *homœopathic Institution* at Allentown, Pa.; the *American Journal of Homœopathia*; and *Dr. Hull's Homœopathic Examiner*, and other works.

The public abounds there in warm friends and supporters of the Reform, and they are found among farmers, mechanics, merchants,* ministers, members of the bar, professors of Academies and Universities, members of different Legislatures, and of Congress. How much it is esteemed and advocated by an intelligent class of the community is shown by the strong patronage of homœopathic physicians in all the eastern cities. It is sufficient to know that New York and Philadelphia alone, each, counts from twenty to thirty of them; and the Homœopaths of Boston, Albany, Baltimore, Washington, Pittsburg, Cincinnati, Louisville, St. Louis, &c., &c., are busily engaged in an extensive practice, and likewise many physicians throughout the country of several States. The necessity for a Homœopathic Medical Institution is mentioned in the State of New York and other places, and will before long be called into existence. The medical schools of the United States do their best, to appear, as first, among their rivals and use every exertion to promote their interests; but let one or two of them lay aside their prejudices against the new doctrine, and let them create a professional chair for *Materia Medica* and *Medical Practice* of Homœopathia, combined with a hospital adapted to that system, then Anatomy, Physiology, Pathology, Chemistry, &c., are alike the foundation of both systems, and they will, *cæteris paribus*, advance of their sister schools. The time is not far distant, we trust, when it will be done here, as in Europe, where it has become already a law of some

*There are wholesale and retail drug-store keepers, who sell their medicines to every body who wants them, but when they get ill, or their families, call on homœopathic physicians and take their medicine in preference; even allopathic physicians have recommended some of their friends and patients to give Homœopathy a trial, and have often themselves, after consulting the best of their knowledge, without avail, applied to her for relief and cure. One sample: An aged medical professor, Lazzarini, in the University of Florence, was attacked by gangrene in one leg, and which was spreading up the limb in spite of all that his colleagues in attendance could do to stop it; they, therefore, declared the case hopeless, and he was himself of the same opinion, but sent, as a last resource, to Rome for a friend of his, Dr. Severini, who had embraced the doctrines of Hahnemann,—under his treatment he was perfectly cured. This has, of course, caused a great sensation in Florence and won many adherents to the cause.—*British Journal of Homœopathia*.

Governments, that a candidate for the degree of "Doctor of Medicine," has to stand his examination in both systems: "The medical institution which shall have the courage to be first in doing so here, will justly earn the high approbation of the public: There is no reason why different systems of medicine cannot be co-existing. If opposition must be carried on, then let it be an honorable, a fair, an honest opposition; for the cause of demonstrating the truth of the principles of science, not by mere imaginary opinions, but by facts drawn from actual experience.

"As reformations never originate *within* institutions, where error and abuse are safe," observes Dr. CHANNING, "but from the sufferings of those *without*, whatever reform medical education may need, must receive its first impulse from the imperative demand of the age; or, what is equivalent under a government like ours, from the omnipotent cry of the people, interpreted sustained and enforced by the profession at large; for to us, in such an emergency, they naturally and confidently look for counsel and support. Let us, therefore, rejoice in "the signs of the times," for they announce that a spirit is awakening in this home of free institutions, which, in giving audience to the importunities of the age, in concentrating the philanthropy, the intelligence and influence of the profession, to meet its just requisitions, will, it is to be hoped, commence a movement for Medicine, which may prove as effective in its regenerating power, as that so auspiciously undertaken for education in common schools." To the general onward progress of knowledge and reform is the light of science, "as the pillar of fire by night," and in medicine be the poor suffering humanity benefitted by it, as well as by the practical results of sincere and skilful investigation, and by material improvements in the treatment of the sick, i. e. by a quick, mild and permanent alleviation and cure of disease; and, with the words of the last-quoted author, we close: "Medicine, then, instead of limping in the rear of the army of science, shall take her place in the van-guard, there to win for herself the laurels of a world's benediction."

*If Luther and Melanchton, Zwingli and Calvin had had to wait for the sanction of their reformed doctrine by the "Pope of Rome," and the United States for the approbation of their Declaration of Independence and Republican Constitution from the "royal throne of Great Britain"—history would never refer to a great religious reformation, called "Protestantism," and never would have existed in the historical annals of nations, *the greatest of all Republics, "The United States of America."* And so in Medicine, we never would have heard of a reform called "*Homœopathy,*" if Hahnemann, his disciples, and the public, had to listen to the opinions of medical professors in general, and their most obedient adherents, or to await their approbation. Reform commences not *within*, but *without* such institutions; though sound doctrine and practice in medicine is to the body, what sound religion is to the soul.

